



LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 220, Austin, TX 78767-0220
1-800-776-5272, FAX (512) 473-3298

POWERHOUSE TEACHING LOCAL STUDENTS TO CONSERVE RESOURCES

For Immediate Release: May 3, 2010

Contact: Tara Wells, 1-800-776-5272, Ext.2087

SAN MARCOS — A group of students at Doris Miller Middle School is learning how making just a few simple changes in their families' energy habits can save natural resources and money through participation in the POWERHOUSE™ energy investigation program. The City of San Marcos Public Services Department, Electric Utility Division, sponsored the program for students in Beth Doege's and Scott McCaskill's sixth-grade science classes.

"I liked POWERHOUSE. It was a fun way to learn about saving money on our utility bills," said Avion Smith, student.

POWERHOUSE provides students the opportunity to learn hands-on about the impacts of energy consumption. Using a walk-through home energy audit guide, students and their parents investigate and record their households' energy use by appliances and other features. The program teaches students about efficiency and conservation and how being energy smart at home can affect the environment and their families' budget through lower utility bills. Information the students gather is used to produce an energy audit report that provides efficiency and conservation recommendations to be used in the home.

"At a time when families are tightening their household budgets, POWERHOUSE is teaching students and their families that simple changes – like using compact fluorescent lighting and changing thermostats to energy efficient settings – can help save on their utility bills," said Jan Klein, City of San Marcos Public Services Department. "The program also teaches students how water efficiency can help them become better stewards of our environment's natural resources."

During the 2008-2009 school year, about 5,000 students learned how to use less energy and save natural resources, thanks to POWERHOUSE presentations in 50 schools with 29 utility sponsors. LCRA developed the program and offers it to its wholesale electric customers.